




STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH
LANSING


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February 1, 2008

TO: Directors of Michigan's Community Mental Health Services Programs
Michigan Recovery Council Members and Partners
Stakeholders in Michigan's Public Mental Health System

FROM: Janet Olszewski 
Director

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Mental Health and Substance Abuse Administration

SUBJECT: System of Care Based in Recovery for Adults with Mental Illness

Our state faces many challenges. As someone who deals each day with these challenges, you are on the front lines of those who know that the many positive steps taken to improve the lives of our citizens often are overlooked. We thank you for your commitment and want to make this point clear: We are with you, and we will make every effort to continue the progress we are making.

Together, we are transforming the public mental health system to support recovery as the foundation of service delivery for individuals with mental illness. The recovery concept means that we will not be satisfied by simply alleviating the symptoms of mental illness, but will measure our success when individuals with mental illness have employment, relationships, education, independence and community memberships that they choose and desire. A public mental health system that supports recovery is the expectation, not the exception. Michigan's performance in this area has been nationally recognized as a leader, not the follower!

Here are three new initiatives that demonstrate Michigan's leadership in supporting the recovery of individuals with mental illness:

First, we are adopting the Recovery Enhancing Environment (REE) measure recommended by the Michigan Recovery Council. This group of dedicated citizens – most of whom are in a journey of recovery - recognizes that the most important factor in recovery is hope. The REE will assist all 46 Community Mental Health Services Programs and their provider agencies to identify the organizational and services changes that are necessary to create a service environment based in hope and the expectation of recovery. The individual recovery markers section of the REE will provide information to measure progress that individuals are making in their recovery journey.



Second, Certified Peer Support Specialists are a growing work force and are fundamentally changing our system. Peer Specialists ensure that individuals receive support from people in recovery as soon as they are introduced to the service system and throughout their individual recovery journey. For the past two years, the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) has provided statewide training and certification for peer support specialists. The further evolution of training and certification will require support and the creation of career ladders for peer specialists. To reach this goal, MDCH is developing a partnership with Lansing Community College (LCC) to incorporate the training curriculum for college credit. LCC recognizes and values this shared partnership for system transformation.

Third, the Recovery Center of Excellence will serve as a statewide communication platform to link consumers, providers, advocates, families and community stakeholders on recovery. The Guidance Center - a program of the Detroit Wayne County Community Mental Health Agency - has been awarded a grant to operate this new initiative. The Recovery Center of Excellence will begin with funding from a federal grant from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services for mental health systems transformation and will continue to operate with funding from Michigan's Community Mental Health Federal Block Grant.

We look forward to strengthening our shared commitment with all stakeholders in this system transformation effort.

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